Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-58. (Canceled)

Claim 59. (New): A method for increasing the expression of an exogenous nucleic acid molecule in T cells, comprising:

(a) contacting the T cells *in vitro* with at least one stimulatory agent, wherein the T cells are proliferating prior to contact with the at least one stimulatory agent, thereby forming stimulated proliferating T cells; and

(b) introducing the exogenous nucleic acid molecule into the T cells from step (a) *in vitro*, less than 24 hours after contacting of said T cells, wherein the exogenous nucleic acid molecule is introduced into the T cells using a viral vector, provided that the exogenous nucleic acid molecule is not introduced by particle bombardment,

such that the expression of the exogenous nucleic acid molecule is increased in the T cells compared with T cells not contacted with the stimulatory agent prior to introducing the exogenous nucleic acid molecule.

Claim 60. (New): The method of claim 59, wherein the T cells are contacted *in vitro* with at least one proliferative agent which stimulates proliferation of the T cells prior to being contacted with the at least one stimulatory agent.

Claim 61. (New): The method of claim 59, wherein the T cells are primary T cells.

Claim 62. (New): The method of claim 59, wherein the at least one stimulatory agent is a combination of a phorbol ester and a calcium ionophore, a super-antigen, a polyclonal activator, a lymphokine, an antigen presented by an antigen presenting cell, or a protein tyrosine kinase activator.

Claim 63. (New): The method of claim 59, wherein the at least one stimulatory agent is an antibody.

Claim 64. (New): The method of claim 59, wherein the at least one stimulatory agent is an agent which interacts with the T cell receptor/CD3 complex and provides a primary activation signal to the proliferating T cells.

Claim 65. (New): The method of claim 64, wherein the agent which interacts with the T cell receptor/CD3 complex is an agent which interacts with the T cell receptor, an agent which interacts with the CD3 complex, or an agent that stimulates the CD2 complex on T cells.

Claim 66. (New): The method of claim 59, wherein the stimulatory agent is an anti-CD3 antibody, or a combination of anti-CD2 antibodies.

Claim 67. (New): The method of claim 59, wherein the stimulatory agent is attached to a surface.

Claim 68. (New): The method of claim 67, wherein the surface is a bead, a cell surface, or a tissue culture dish.

Claim 69. (New): The method of claim 59, wherein the at least one stimulatory agent is a combination of a first agent which provides a primary activation signal to the proliferating T cells, and a second agent which provides a costimulatory signal to the proliferating T cells.

Claim 70. (New): The method of claim 69, wherein the first agent is an agent which interacts with the T cell receptor/CD3 complex and provides a primary activation signal to the proliferating T cells.

Claim 71. (New): The method of claim 69, wherein the first agent is an anti-CD3 antibody.

Claim 72. (New): The method of claim 69, wherein the first agent interacts with a CD2 complex on the T cells.

Claim 73. (New): The method of claim 69, wherein the first agent is an antigen on an antigen presenting cell.

Claim 74. (New): The method of claim 69, wherein the second agent is an anti-CD28 antibody.

Claim 75. (New): The method of claim 69, wherein the second agent is a stimulatory form of a natural ligand of CD28.

Claim 76. (New): The method of claim 75, wherein the stimulatory form of a natural ligand of CD28 is the B lymphocyte antigen B7-1.

Claim 77. (New): The method of claim 75, wherein the stimulatory form of a natural ligand of CD28 is the B lymphocyte antigen B7-2.

Claim 78. (New): The method of claim 69, wherein the first agent or the second agent is attached to a surface.

Claim 79. (New): The method of claim 69, wherein the first agent and the second agent are attached to a surface.

Claim 80. (New): The method of claim 79, wherein the first agent and the second agent are attached to the same surface.

Claim 81. (New): The method of claim 78, wherein the surface is a bead, a cell surface, or a tissue culture dish.

Claim 82. (New): The method of claim 59, wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of recombinant retroviruses, adenovirus, adeno-associated virus, and herpes simplex virus-1.

Claim 83. (New): The method of claim 59, wherein the viral vector is a recombinant retrovirus.

Claim 84. (New): The method of claim 59, wherein the recombinant retrovirus is replication defective.

Claim 85. (New): The method of claim 59, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is introduced into said T cells, between approximately 1 hour and less than 24 hours after contacting said T cells *in vitro* with said at least one stimulatory agent.

Claim 86. (New): The method of claim 59, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is introduced into said T cells, approximately 10 hours after contacting said T cells *in vitro* with said at least one stimulatory agent.

Claim 87. (New): The method of claim 59, wherein the T cells of step (b) are further stimulated *in vitro* to increase their number.

Claim 88. (New): The method of claim 59, wherein the T cells are obtained from a subject, and are readministered to the subject after introducing the exogenous nucleic acid molecule into the T cells.

Claim 89. (New): A method for increasing the expression of an exogenous nucleic acid molecule in T cells, comprising:

(a) contacting the T cells with at least one proliferative agent which stimulates proliferation of the T cells, forming proliferating T cells;

(b) contacting the proliferating T cells *in vitro* with at least one stimulating agent, thereby forming stimulated proliferating T cells, wherein the at least one stimulatory agent is a combination of a first agent which provides a primary activation signal to the T cells and a second agent which provides a costimulatory signal to the T cells; and

(c) introducing the exogenous nucleic acid molecule into the T cells from step (b) *in vitro*, less than 24 hours after contacting of said T cells, wherein the exogenous nucleic acid molecule is introduced into the T cells using a viral vector, provided that the exogenous nucleic acid molecule is not introduced by particle bombardment,

such that the expression of the gene is increased in the T cells compared with T cells not contacted with the stimulatory agent prior to introducing the exogenous nucleic acid molecule.

Claim 90. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 89, wherein the T cells are primary T cells.

Claim 91. (New): The method of claim 89, wherein the first agent is an agent which interacts with the T cell receptor/CD3 complex and provides a primary activation signal to the proliferating T cells.

Claim 92. (New): The method of claim 91, wherein the first agent is an anti-CD3 antibody.

Claim 93. (New): The method of claim 91, wherein the first agent interacts with a CD2 complex on the T cells.

Claim 94. (New): The method of claim 91, wherein the first agent is an antigen on an antigen presenting cell.

Claim 95. (New): The method of-claim 89, wherein the second agent is an anti-CD28 antibody.

Claim 96. (New): The method of claim 89, wherein the second agent is a stimulatory form of a natural ligand of CD28.

Claim 97. (New): The method of claim 96, wherein the stimulatory form of a natural ligand of CD28 is the B lymphocyte antigen B7-1 or B7-2.

Claim 98. (New): The method of claim 89, wherein the first agent or second agent is an antibody.

Claim 99. (New): The method of claim 89, wherein the first agent and the second agent are antibodies.

Claim 100. (New): The method of claim 89, wherein the first agent or the second agent is attached to a surface.

Claim 101. (New): The method of claim 89, wherein the first agent and the second agent are attached to a surface.

Claim 102. (New): The method of claim 101, wherein the surface is a bead, a cell surface, or a tissue culture dish.

Claim 103. (New): The method of claim 89, wherein the viral vector is selected from the group consisting of recombinant retroviruses, adenovirus, adeno-associated virus, and herpes simplex virus-1.

Claim 104. (New): The method of claim 89, wherein the viral vector is a recombinant retrovirus.

Claim 105. (New): The method of claim 89, wherein the recombinant retrovirus is replication defective.

Claim 106. (New): The method of claim 89, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is introduced into said T cells, between approximately 1 hour and less than 24 hours after contacting said proliferating T cells *in vitro* with said at least one stimulatory agent.

Claim 107. (New): The method of claim 89, wherein said nucleic acid molecule is introduced into said T cells, approximately 10 hours after contacting said proliferating T cells *in vitro* with said at least one stimulatory agent.

Claim 108. (New): The method of claim 89, wherein the T cells of step (c) are further stimulated *in vitro* to increase their number.

Claim 109. (New): The method of claim 89, wherein the T cells are obtained from a subject and are readministered to the subject after introducing the exogenous nucleic acid molecule into the T cells.